

while in public office and are still able to collect generous pensions. This is simply not right.

The bipartisan legislation we are introducing today will put an end to this. Judges, Members of Congress and the President will forfeit their pension benefits if they commit felonies while in public office. The list of felonies which would result in a loss of pension are directly related to the performance of official duties. Among the offenses listed in the bill are bribery and illegal gratuities, improper representation before the government, violation of antilobbying restrictions, false claims and fraud, abuse of the electoral process, conspiracy to defraud the United States, and perjury.

Public service is both an honor and a privilege. It represents a sacred trust and thus we ought to have harsh penalties for those who breach that trust. Those who violate this trust while serving in public office should not be entitled to their pensions. The taxpayers have helped finance these pensions. At a minimum, they are owed this kind of accountability.

Finally, I wish to thank Senators GREGG and NICKLES for their leadership and support on this issue. Senators GREGG, NICKLES and I had been working on a solution to this issue and I am confident that this legislation is the appropriate response. I believe this is a problem in need of bipartisan attention. Greater accountability will ultimately produce public greater confidence in our three branches of government.●

MEMORIAL DAY 1996: SIMPLE TRUTHS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to mention an upcoming, special American holiday, Memorial Day.

Last year, in honor of Father's Day, I read to you a letter from a fellow New Mexican, Chuck Everett. Mr. Everett originally wrote that letter while he was serving in Korea to his father who was back home in the United States.

In that letter, a younger Chuck Everett talked about certain simple truths—a son's longing to be with his dad on Father's Day; a soldier's patriotism; and hope for the future. The young soldier dedicated that particular day to fathers, the support of free will, free speech, freedom from fear, freedom of religion, and freedom of thought.

Today, in recognition of Memorial Day, I want to share with the Senate and the American people some more insightful thoughts by Mr. Everett. His poem, entitled "Simple Truths," serves as a good reminder to those of us who serve in this esteemed Chamber, as well as to all Americans, that while our country derives much strength from its diversity, we Americans also share basic ideals—ideals for which many men and women have given their lives. As the country remembers those brave Americans who fought for the United States, I submit that we are a

nation founded on ideas, notably the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are simple truths to be cherished and protected for future generations.

In memory of those who were killed or are still considered to be missing in action, I respectfully ask that the text of Mr. Everett's poem be printed in the RECORD.

The poem follows:

SIMPLE TRUTHS

Simple truths are emotions from the heart
To state those feelings we wish to share
With those with whom we do not stand apart
And sharing those ideals about which we care.

We ever strive to serve our God and country,
A nation born to hear the bells of freedom ring.

Bound not by the shackles of fear and
affrontry.
But living free of oppression by dictator or king.

We dedicate our lives to the support of democracy.

Building a nation with simple truths in mind.

Glorified in living free from any aristocracy,
Striving for liberty and justice for all mankind.

Let our mission be to keep this country free,
To stand tall for what we feel is right or wrong,

Embracing ourselves in the principles of liberty

And always being on the alert and ever so strong.—C. Everett.●

WAYLAND V.F.W. POST 7581

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this weekend America honors its veterans through Memorial Day activities across the country. It is a time when we thank our veterans for their service and remember those we have lost. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7581 in Wayland, MI, will be celebrating Memorial Day this year as it does each year. However, this year will be especially significant because it marks the 50th anniversary of the post.

Wayland VFW Post 7581 was chartered at a ceremony in the Wayland High School gym on June 10, 1946, with 43 members. In 1949, a Ladies Auxiliary to the post was instituted. VFW Post 7581 dedicated its headquarters on June 10, 1956. Most of the work on the building was done by the members of the Post. Over the years, post membership has grown dramatically. The post now maintains 289 members, including 74 life members.

During its 50 years, the post has dedicated its efforts to providing services for the Wayland community, including: Lite-a-Hike campaigns, blood banks, little league baseball, polio dances and the donation of flags to local schools. Last winter, the post made national news for helping stranded motorists during the blizzard. The post also conducts military funerals, participates in Memorial Day activities and assists veterans submitting claims to the Veterans' Administration.

Mr. President, the members of Wayland VFW Post 7581 have not only

proudly served our country in military service, but they continue to serve through their commitment to community. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring the veterans of VFW. Post 7581 and congratulating them on their 50 years of service to the community of Wayland, MI.●

JANET RENO'S WORDS OF WISDOM

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, we have a lot to be proud of in our country and we have many great role models. One role model, who recently visited my home state and spoke to the graduates of the University of South Carolina, is Janet Reno.

Janet Reno is our country's first female Attorney General and has excelled in the role. She is a dedicated, top-flight public servant. And indeed, that was also her reputation in Florida, where President Clinton plucked her in 1993 from her role as the State's attorney for Dade County. Janet Reno was known in Dade County as a tough, front-line crime fighter and she devoted herself to making communities safer, keeping children out of trouble, reducing domestic violence and helping families. She also targeted career criminals, dangerous offenders and drug traffickers, promising strict and certain sentences that put them away and kept them away.

Janet Reno grew up in Florida and worked her way through Cornell University. She wanted to pursue a law degree but was told that "woman didn't become lawyers." She ignored the advice and became one of only 16 women in a class of 565 students to enroll in Harvard Law School in 1960. When she graduated, people said, "No one will hire a woman lawyer." She proved them wrong, of course. Janet Reno was and is a trail-blazer.

In her speech to the USC graduates, Janet Reno talked about the frustrations that faced her and her predecessors as Attorney General. She said:

There is no vaccination for crime, as there is for polio. The only thing we have is hard work, seven days a week, parents raising children right, police walking the beat every single night, and prosecutors putting criminals behind bars, one by one. Our problems are complex and the answers rarely simple.

Janet Reno encouraged the graduates avoid the deadly sins of our public life: extremism, cynicism and defeatism. Her advice is sound and I think we could all benefit from it. I ask that her address be printed in the RECORD.

The address follows:

SPRING COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

I am honored to share this day with you. It is so wonderful to look out to see so many who have worked so hard to obtain their diploma today. I especially want to say hello to my fellow chemistry majors. In 1960, I earned my chemistry degree from Cornell University. So, to you parents who worry that your graduating sons and daughters still lack a clear career goal, I suggest, give them a little more time; you never know what might happen.